18. Discuss how Emerson, Thoreau, and Whitman redefined American individualism.

19. Explore the themes of illusion versus reality in *The Glass Menagerie.*

20. Examine Hawthorne's critique of society in *The Scarlet Letter* through its characters and themes.

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

23UEN22 — AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

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SECTION A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

1. What were the Puritans' main religious beliefs?

2. Why is the idea of the "First Frontier" important in American literature?

3. What does Transcendentalism emphasize about self and nature?

4. Give one example of an optimistic and a pessimistic Romantic writer.

5. How does Whitman use imagery to depict grief in "O Captain! My Captain!"?

6. What symbolic meaning do the birch trees hold in Frost's poem?

7. How does Edgar Allan Poe create a sense of despair in "The Raven"?

8. What literary devices does Dickinson use in "Because I could not stop for Death"?

9. How does Martin Luther King Jr. advocate for equality in "I Have a Dream"?

10. What is the main lesson from Emerson's essay "Self-Reliance"?

SECTION B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL the questions.

11. (a) Explain how Puritan values influenced the development of American literature.

Or

(b) Discuss how Emerson's and Thoreau's ideas reflect Transcendentalist beliefs.

12. (a) How does Whitman express admiration for Lincoln in "O Captain! My Captain!"?

Or

(b) Explain the role of nature in Frost's poetry with reference to "Birches".

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13. (a) Explain Emerson's views on individuality in his essay "Self-Reliance".

Or

(b) How does Dickinson present the theme of mortality in her poem?

14. (a) Analyse the relationship between past and present in "The Glass Menagerie".

Or

(b) How does Tennessee Williams present the theme of escape in "The Glass Menagerie"?

15. (a) How does Hawthorne explore the theme "The Scarlet Letter"?

Or

(b) How does Hawthorne use symbolism to convey moral lessons in *The Scarlet Letter*?

SECTION C — (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

Answer any THREE questions.

16. Analyse how Puritan ideals shaped early American literature and culture.

17. How does Edgar Allan Poe create a mood of Mystery and sadness in the poem "The Raven"?